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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Rainer BECKER et al

Serial No.:

To Be Assigned

Filed:

May 10, 2006

(Concurrently Herewith)

For:

METHOD FOR QUANTITATIVELY DETERMINING

THE WIDTH OF A SOFT ZONE AREA OF A

PARTIALLY HARDENED WORKPIECE

Art Unit:

To Be Assigned

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 10, 2006

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendments to the Specification and Abstract

Amendments to the Claims

Remarks are included following the amendments